

Kyaw report closed

Collision an accident, no charges

By **John A. Hawkinson**
STAFF REPORTER

The investigation into the Dec. 27, 2011 death of Phyo Kyaw '10 is complete, and it has been ruled an accident. Kyaw was killed when his bicycle and a J.P. Noonan tanker truck collided as the truck turned right from Massachusetts Avenue onto Vassar Street in rainy weather after dark that evening.

"We found that there is insufficient evidence to support negligence on the part of the driver," said Jessica Venezia Pastore, a spokeswoman for the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. Pastore responded to a routine inquiry from *The Tech* about this matter on Friday. Pastore said the investigation had closed on April 8. Police reports on the accident were not available prior to that closure.

The Massachusetts State Police performed a collision reconstruction, and their 16-page reconstruction report, dated March 21, is available online at <http://tech.mit.edu/VI32/N26/kyaw>.

"The possible cause of this collision was the encroachment of the bicycle into the path of the turning tractor trailer unit," the report said. The report, which was the basis for the DA's decision whether to charge the driver, is written in the "best light" favorable to the truck driver. This is consistent with innocent-un-

til-proven-guilty. The report explicitly states that its assumptions favor the innocence of the driver.

The reconstruction report shows the tractor-trailer truck crossing over the double-yellow line into Vassar's oncoming (westbound) traffic's left lane, and shows both Kyaw's bicycle and Kyaw's body as being on the lane division between the left and right westbound lanes.

However, the report states that "roadway design and engineering did not precipitate or contribute to this collision." State police spokesmen were not available last night to resolve the discrepancy.

Kyaw's bicycle's final position was not in a bicycle lane, the report said. Local laws do not require bicycles to travel in the bicycle lane, and it is common for left-turning bicycles to travel in Vassar's left lane.

The reconstruction report cited contributing factors of "moderate to heavy rainfall," Kyaw's nonreflective clothing, Kyaw's presumed high speed, and the lack of a front light on the bicycle.

Kyaw was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident, Cambridge Police report #5 said. The bicycle was "not equipped with a front-facing light," and its front white reflector was partially obstructed by brake and shifter cables, the report said.

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MICHAEL R. GLOMBICKI

Baker residents are forced to sleep in the fifth floor of the student center, among other places, on Sunday morning after a vandal discharged a fire extinguisher on the first, second, and third floors of the dormitory. The alarm went off at 2 a.m. and again at 4:30 a.m. that morning; residents were not allowed back in until 9:45 a.m.

Three floors of Baker vandalized

Evacuated after two fire alarms, perpetrator unknown

By **Bruno B.F. Faviero**
STAFF REPORTER

Baker residents were rudely awakened by fire alarms twice on Sunday morning, once at 2 a.m. and again at 4 a.m. On the second instance, someone also "maliciously" discharged a fire extinguisher on the first, second, and

third floors before disposing of it in a third-floor trash can. Baker was evacuated for several hours as a result, according to Baker President Michael E. Plasmeyer '13 and information from Baker House minutes. The fire alarms were pulled in the west wing of the first floor, from where the fire extinguisher was also taken.

Students leaving their rooms on these floors encountered the discharge on the floor, which resembled "flour" according to first-floor resident Jonathan M. "Jono" Matthews '15. Matthews also noticed the white smoke in the air, which Housemaster Jeffrey A.

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TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

MIT students gather on Kresge Lawn Sunday evening to watch the UA's showing of Pixar's *Up*.

IN SHORT

HockField Day, a celebration picnic in honor of President Susan J. Hockfield, will be this Thursday on Killian Court from noon to 2 p.m.

Do you want to volunteer for the 2012 Commencement? Register online at <http://mit150.mit.edu/none/volunteer-commencement-2012> by this Friday at 5 p.m. to request extended spring housing as a volunteer.

The Toy Product Design (2.00B) has its final PLAYsensation event

today at 7:30 p.m. in 10-250, where student teams will present their final toy prototypes.

The MIT \$100K Business Plan Contest's finale is today 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. Eight MIT startups will compete as finalists.

Sloan's Institute-wide course bidding closes this Friday at 5 p.m. Students can bid online at <https://sloanbid.mit.edu/registrar-student/Home.tap>.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

The Tech has an audio news digest!

Brief audio news digest available online with every issue

By **Jingyun Fan**
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

In the time that it takes to walk down the Infinite, you can now catch up on campus news! Just listen to *The Tech's* new bi-weekly news digest. It will cost you 10 minutes each week — or less than 0.1% of your time. You can subscribe to the podcast at <http://tech.mit.edu/rss/newsdigest.xml>.

The Tech inaugurated this new feature on May 4 — you may have noticed it on our webpage's sidebar. Our hope is to make it easier for students to stay informed about campus issues.

The life of an MIT student is busy and stressful. As you prepare for your future, it is easy to see how reading *The Tech* gets relegated to the back burner. However, life does not begin only after graduation. Citizenship

starts in your immediate community, and it starts now.

This is easier said than done. Students tell us that they simply do not have time for the news, and we hope that the audio digest will lower the activation energy required to engage in the community.

We aim to release a digest on Tuesday and Friday, accompanying each issue of *the Tech*. We hope you enjoy the news digest!

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CoolChip within rules

CEP rules revised to reflect IP concerns

By **Anne Cai**
NEWS EDITOR

On April 11, Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 concluded a review of an intellectual property rights situation with CoolChip Technologies, winner of the 2011 MIT \$200K Clean Energy Prize (CEP) Contest. He found that the CoolChip did not violate the rules of the competition, but "was misleading in some of its public presentations." Grimson said in an interview with *The Tech* in September that he would be working with the leadership of the CEP to review their rules regarding intellectual property and attribution issues. Since then, he

said, he has personally conducted interviews with the three CoolChip founders, the relevant faculty, staff, and students, and the staff of Sandia National Laboratories, which invented the technology in question. Grimson also reviewed CoolChip's contest submission and the CEP's rules.

Last May, MIT startup CoolChip Technologies, which develops cooling systems for electronics, won the Grand Prize in MIT's \$200K Clean Energy Prize (CEP) Contest. Founded by William R. Sanchez '05, Steven J. Stoddard '06, and Daniel A. Vannoni MBA '11, CoolChip was sub-

ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN

How leaders can ask for more student space.
EDITORIAL, p. 4

BRINGING MIT TOGETHER

Check out the UA-GSC joint vision statement! **OPINION, p. 5**

IS&T CELL PHONE AMPS

What are those funny white cones around campus? **NEWS, p. 12**



A MARVELOUS MENAGERIE OF SUPERHEROES

The Avengers are finally here! **ARTS, p. 6**

HUNGRY MOTHER

This small restaurant by the Kendall Theater will delight.
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In rebuke to Merkel, Germans choose social democrats

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel’s party suffered a stinging defeat in elections in Germany’s most populous state on Sunday, one likely to embolden her political opponents both at home and abroad as the European debt crisis enters a critical new phase.

One week after Socialists seized the French presidency, the Social Democrats won the parliamentary election in North Rhine-Westphalia, early results and exit polls released Sunday showed. Norbert Rottgen, the lead candidate for Merkel’s Christian Democrats in the state, conceded defeat and said he would be stepping down as the head of the party there.

Exit polls for German public television showed the Social Democrats winning 39.1 percent of the vote, an increase of 4.6 percentage points from two years earlier.

While the results were not official, the party was likely to achieve a double-digit margin of victory. The Christian Democrats won just 26.3 percent of the vote, 8.3 percentage points less than in the previous election.

—Nicholas Kulish, *The New York Times*

China’s political turmoil won’t delay new leadership

BEIJING — Despite a spectacular political scandal and swirling rumors of high-level infighting, signs are that China’s once-in-a-decade leadership change is still on track for this autumn, according to party insiders and observers.

The change, which will take place at the Communist Party’s 18th Congress, was scheduled last year for the second half of this year.

Over the weekend, the party’s flagship newspaper People’s Daily reported in its overseas edition — which is written for foreign consumption — that this timetable will be met.

The article came after some foreign news media predicted that the Congress would be delayed.

—Ian Johnson, *The New York Times*

Palestinian prisoners sign deal and end their hunger strike

JERUSALEM — Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails ended a hunger strike Monday that had lasted for weeks, signing an agreement with the Israeli authorities that promised improved conditions, according to officials. The end of the strike calmed fears of widespread unrest in the event of a prisoner’s death.

“There is an agreement — the strike is over,” Sivan Weizman, a spokeswoman for the Israel Prison Service, said by telephone Monday evening.

Qadura Fares, the president of the Palestinian Prisoners Society, based in Ramallah in the West Bank, said that the agreement was reached by prison leaders on behalf of all the Palestinian factions.

Israel said that Egypt and Jordan had played roles in helping to end the strike.

Among other provisions, the Israeli authorities said, the agreement calls for prisoners now in solitary confinement to be returned to the general prison population and for family visits to resume for prisoners from Gaza, which is under the control of Hamas, the more radical of the major Palestinian factions.

—Isabel Kershner, *The New York Times*

Iran sees success in stalling on nuclear issue

By Thomas Erdbrink
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, Iran — As Iran starts a critical round of talks over its nuclear program, its negotiating team may be less interested in reaching a comprehensive settlement than in buying time to further establish its enrichment program, Iranian officials and analysts said.

That is because though Iran finds itself under increased financial pressure from tightening sanctions, officials here say their fundamental approach has essentially worked. In continually pushing forward the nuclear activities — ramping up enrichment and building a bunker mountain enrichment facility — Iran has in effect forced the West to accept a program it insists is for peaceful purposes.

Iranians say their carefully crafted policy has helped moved

the goal posts in their favor by making enrichment a reality that the West has been unable to stop — and may now be willing, however grudgingly, to accept.

“Without violating any international laws or the Non-Proliferation Treaty, we have managed to bypass the red lines the West created for us,” said Hamidreza Taraghi, an adviser to Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is close to the negotiating team.

Iran’s envoys met on Monday with officials with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna to discuss the agency’s desire to inspect facilities in Iran that it suspects have been used to test explosives capable of detonating a nuclear charge, which Iran denies.

The talks, however, are also seen as an informal precursor to negotiations scheduled this month in Baghdad, between Iran and the United States and other

world powers.

While there remains a significant gap in trust between the two sides — and little likelihood that Iran will give the IAEA the access it wants to a military site — Iran’s public posture fuels a sense that both sides are searching for a way to declare victory and end the crisis.

For the West, officials have said that success, at least in the short term, would mean a deal that has Iran ship all its more highly enriched uranium out of the country, which would slow its ability to potentially build nuclear weapons.

In Tehran, Taraghi was promoting a narrative that might pave the way for public, and political, acceptance of a compromise over a program that has broad public support, even among competing political factions. Enrichment is seen as a matter of national sovereignty and pride.

Greek turmoil may spur new bargaining in eurozone

By Nicholas Kulish and Rachel Donadio
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN — As gridlock among Greece’s political parties made new elections and another month of uncertainty there all but inevitable, European markets dropped significantly Monday amid concerns that Greece’s departure from the euro was near, and right behind it a new round of financial instability for Europe and the outside world.

Yet there were also indications emerging Monday that the latest turmoil could as easily signify the beginning of a new phase of bargaining between Greece and its European lenders as it could a sudden Greek exit from the eurozone.

Despite their hard line in pub-

lic, German policymakers, including Chancellor Angela Merkel, have begun to hint at some flexibility on the deep and painful budget cuts European officials have demanded. In Greece, despite outrage at the cost of carrying out European demands for austerity, few seem prepared to argue that the costs of leaving the euro — and perhaps severing political ties to Europe — are really bearable.

“Leaving the euro is like a huge earthquake or a nuclear bomb,” said Yannis Stournaras, a well-regarded economist who has advised multiple Greek governments and the Bank of Greece. “There will be no life. Life will start from scratch.” Asked if Greece had any contingency plans for leaving the euro, Stournaras said simply, “No.”

The uncertainty led major stock

indexes in Britain, Germany and France to decline by about two percent.

Many political analysts say that unless Greece forms a government at the 11th hour this week, the most likely outcome after a probable new round of elections in June is another round of contentious negotiations over the terms of staying in the eurozone because neither side has a strong incentive to speed up a withdrawal.

They predict, in other words, that Europe will continue to stumble through the crisis for some months to come.

“Nobody can really calculate what the costs are of Greece exiting the euro, and nobody wants to test it,” said Thomas Risse, professor of international politics at the Free University in Berlin.

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Facebook needs to turn data trove into investor gold

By Somini Sengupta
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO — Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook’s chief, has managed to amass more information about more people than anyone else in history.

Now what?

As Facebook turns to Wall Street in the biggest public offering ever by an Internet company, it faces a new, unenviable test: how to keep growing and enriching its hungry new shareholders.

The answer lies in what Facebook will be able to do — and how quickly — with its crown jewel: its status as an online directory for a good chunk of the human race, with the names, photos, tastes and desires of nearly one billion people.

Shares are expected to begin trading as early as this week. Already, lots of investors are scrambling

to buy Facebook shares, with giddy hopes that it will become a big moneymaker like Google. In the eight years since it sprang out of a Harvard dorm room, Facebook has amassed users at breakneck speed, kept them glued to the site for longer stretches of time and turned a profit by using their personal information to customize the ads they see.

Whether it can spin that data into enough gold to justify a valuation that the company estimates could be as much as \$86 billion remains unclear.

“We know Facebook has an awful lot of data, but what they have not worked out yet is the most effective means of using that data for advertising,” said Catherine Tucker, a professor of marketing at the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “They are going to have to experiment a lot more.”

Analysts, investors and company executives can rattle off any number of challenges facing the company. As it works to better match ads to people, it has to avoid violating its users’ perceived sense of privacy or inviting regulatory scrutiny. It needs to find other ways to generate revenue, like allowing people to buy more goods and services with Facebook Credits, a kind of virtual currency. Most urgently it has to make money on mobile devices, the window to Facebook for more and more people.

All the while, its ability to innovate with new features and approaches — to “break things,” in the words of Zuckerberg — may be markedly constrained once it has investors to answer to.

“They are going to have to think about whether they can continue with the motto, ‘Done is better than perfect,’” said Susan Etlinger, an industry analyst at the Altimeter Group.

Mixed messages over tighter rules for Wall Street

Conflicting signs are emerging in Washington over whether JPMorgan Chase’s surprise trading loss will spur tighter regulation on Wall Street.

One of the banking industry’s main regulators appeared to indicate that it would oppose new efforts to rein in risky Wall Street activities, while other regulators emphasized caution. Still, a congressional committee announced plans on Monday to hold a hearing on the financial regulatory overhaul that will look at the JPMorgan loss.

Wall Street’s representatives, fearing that the entire banking industry might pay for JPMorgan’s sins, are trying to contain the fallout in Washington, people close to the matter said.

When JPMorgan announced on Thursday that it had a trading loss of \$2 billion that was expected to grow, some lawmakers and consumer advocates cast it as a case study in the need for stricter Wall Street oversight. The central policy, known as the Volcker Rule, would ban banks from trading with their own money, an effort to prevent bank blowups that necessitate bailouts with taxpayer money.

—Ben Protess and Edward Wyatt, *The New York Times*

Rhode Island to recognize gay unions

Gov. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island on Monday ordered all state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere and to afford those couples many of the same rights and benefits that heterosexual couples get.

By issuing an executive order, Chafee, an independent, reaffirmed a 2007 opinion by the state attorney general, which he said state agencies had followed inconsistently.

An effort to legalize same-sex marriage in Rhode Island failed last year, with the legislature approving civil unions for gay couples instead.

Gay rights advocates said that among other things, the order would help ensure that insurance plans regulated by the state provide the same benefits to same-sex couples who were married in other jurisdictions that they do to heterosexual couples.

—Abby Goodnough, *The New York Times*

Election-finance witness for Edwards barred

GREENSBORO, N.C. — In a setback for the defense, the judge in John Edwards’ corruption trial Monday barred the testimony of a former federal elections official who was prepared to say that Edwards did not violate campaign finance laws.

The witness, Scott Thomas, a former chairman of the Federal Election Commission with 37 years of experience at the agency, was to have been the first witness for Edwards, who is defending himself against six charges of conspiracy and campaign finance violations. Thomas was prepared to testify that almost \$1 million from wealthy donors, which was used to hide Edwards’s affair during his 2008 run for the Democratic presidential nomination, did not qualify as campaign contributions.

In a sometimes contentious hearing without the jury present, Thomas said that although campaign spending remained an unsettled area of law, Edwards had no legal obligation to claim the money as a contribution.

“In my view, it’s a fairly clear-cut case,” he said. “These are obviously intensely personal expenses.”

Judge Catherine C. Eagles, however, ruled against Edwards’ lawyers and said Thomas could not offer the U.S. District Court jury his opinion on the legality of the contributions.

Eagles said it was her role — not a witness’ — to explain the law to the jurors and let them decide if Edwards had violated it.

—Kim Severson, *The New York Times*

Colleges begin to confront higher costs and students’ debt

By Andrew Martin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In a wood-paneled office lined with books, sports memorabilia and framed posters (including John Belushi in “Animal House”), E. Gordon Gee, the president of The Ohio State University, keeps a framed quotation that reads, “If you don’t like change, you’re going to like irrelevance even less.”

Gee, who is often identified with a big salary and spendthrift ways, says he has taken the quotation to heart, and he is now trying to persuade Ohio State’s vast bureaucracy, and the broader world of academia, to do the same.

At a time of diminished state funding for higher education and uncertain federal dollars, Gee says that public colleges and universities need to devise a new business model to pay for the costs of education, beyond sticking students with higher tuition and greater debt.

“The notion that universities

can do business the very same way has to stop,” said Gee, who is also the chairman of a commission studying college attainment, including the impact of student debt.

College presidents across the country are confronting the same realization, trying to manage their institutions with fewer state dollars without sacrificing quality or all-important academic rankings.

Tuition increases had been a relatively easy fix but now — with the balance of student debt topping \$1 trillion and an increasing number of borrowers struggling to pay — some administrators acknowledge that they cannot keep putting the financial onus on students and their families.

Increasingly, they are looking for other ways to pay for education, stepping up private fundraising, privatizing services, cutting staff, eliminating departments — even saving millions of dollars by standardizing things like expense forms.

And Wall Street is watching.

Moody’s Investors Service, in a report earlier this year, said it had a favorable outlook for the nation’s most elite private colleges and large state institutions, those with the “strongest market positions” that had multiple ways to generate revenue. Ohio State, for instance, received a stable outlook from Moody’s last fall, though the report cautioned about the school’s debt and reliance on its medical center for revenue.

But Moody’s issued a negative outlook for the majority of colleges and universities heavily dependent on tuition and state revenue.

“Tuition levels are at a tipping point,” Moody’s wrote, adding later, “We anticipate an ongoing bifurcation of student demand favoring the highest quality and most affordable higher education options.”

Many colleges are top-heavy with administrators and woefully inefficient, having not undertaken the kind of paring public companies did years ago — until now.

WEATHER

Pattern of rainy weekdays, nice weekends to continue

By Shaena Berlin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After letting up for a warm, sunny weekend, rain will return to Cambridge today and tomorrow. While unfortunate for those who wish to enjoy the outdoors, the rain should help ease the drought conditions that plague part of every state on the Atlantic seaboard.

Drought combined with record high temperatures are also taking a toll on the Southwest, where wildfires have already forced evacuations in Arizona, and many other regions sit at high fire risk.

Looking toward the weekend, expect a return of clear skies and pleasant weather just in time to enjoy the Friday with no classes.

Extended Forecast

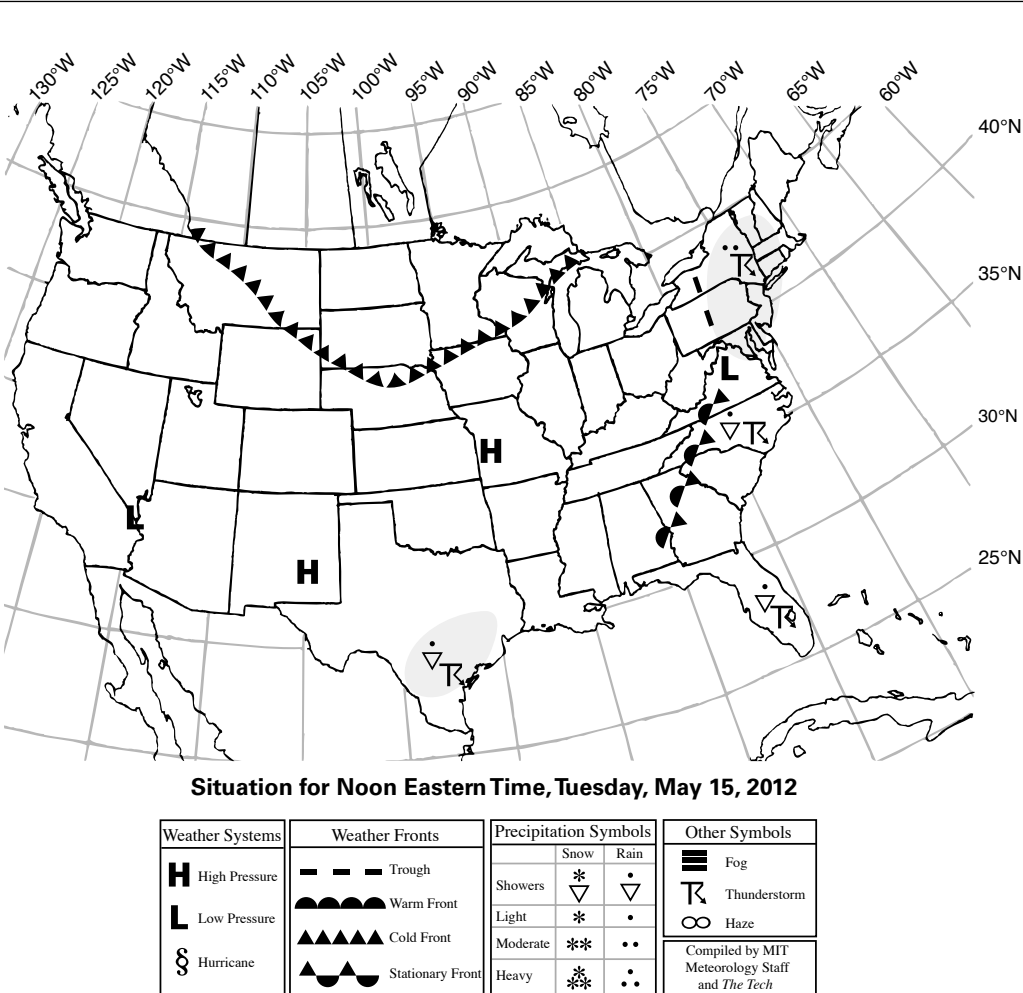
Today: Mostly cloudy with afternoon rain showers. High 72°F (22°C). S wind at 15 mph.

Tonight: Rain showers and thunderstorms possible. Low near 57°F (14°C).

Tomorrow: Morning rain and thunderstorms tapering off in the afternoon. High near 75°F (24°C). Low near 55°F (13°C).

Thursday: Mostly clear with high near 72°F (22°C) and low around 48°F (9°C).

Friday: Sunny and pleasant. High near 68°F (20°C). Low around 48°F (9°C).



MOVIE REVIEW

Return of the superheroes



PHOTO BY ZADE ROSENTHAL © 2011 MVLFFLLC. TM & © 2011 MARVEL.

Captain America (Chris Evans) and Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) in *The Avengers*.

★★★★☆

All-star cast and special effects shine in the latest Marvel film

By Jaimie Chung
STAFF WRITER

The slew of Marvel superhero movies in recent years has culminated with Joss Whedon's multimillion dollar brainchild, *The Avengers*. Each Marvel installment had a pleasant dosage of witty lines and heroic bravado, but when all of these characters come together, there is a little too much of everything. Still, the special effects, comical dialogue, and some stellar acting make the movie worth both the money and the time.

After the Tesseract (a cube with unlimited potential energy) is taken into S.H.I.E.L.D. headquarters to be examined, it is stolen by Loki, Thor's exiled brother. Loki has made a pact with an evil alien named the Other to receive an army to conquer the Earth in exchange for securing the Tesseract. With the Tesseract in his possession, Loki flees, and Nick Fury, the director of S.H.I.E.L.D., realizes that the Avengers Initiative must be put in place in order to save Earth. The Avengers, who each have their own reasons for joining forces, must then overcome their differences and unite to save the world.

First and foremost, we can't help but notice the cheesiness. For example, the Other is a gross exaggeration of every movie monster mashed into one, with a costume resembling a nun's habit and blood dripping from his mouth. Then when Loki wreaks havoc at a museum opening and forces the crowd to kneel to him, Captain America swoops in, and one by one, people in the crowd gain the courage to stand up against Loki. Given, in a movie where six superheroes save the world, some kitsch is warranted — but at times it seemed a little overboard.

However, plenty of other aspects save the movie from being an all-out cheese-fest, one of which is the special effects. Iron Man's suit disassembling as Robert Downey Jr. walks into his tower surpasses any CGI effects in the previous Iron Man movies. In another scene, Loki teleports from Earth to another galaxy as the back-

ground changes pixel by pixel from one location to the other. One last triumph is following one of Hawkeye's arrows as it leaves his bow and attaches itself to an alien's hovercraft, and you can see the parts of the hovercraft ignite as it blows into smithereens.

The casting of each character is quite impeccably done. Cobie Smulders of *How I Met Your Mother* fame rocks a skin-tight body suit and earns her role as Nick Fury's right-hand-man. Scarlett Johansson brings the cunning qualities of the Black Widow to life and holds her own in the fight scenes. Tom Hiddleston's portrayal of Loki is downright menacing as he grins at his mischievous plans, takes pleasure in removing a man's eye, and rejoices in stabbing his brother.

Unfortunately, all attempts to grasp at a deeper meaning fail. There are a few instances where mirrors and reflections are used to show both sides of a conversation. During an explosion scene, a camera from inside a car captures the view through the front window as it flips upside down. These shots are so obviously forced that they stand out in the film as attempts to portray different perspectives that the audience doesn't need to see.

Whedon also seems to want to tackle the issues behind war as the superheroes deny being just soldiers a few times throughout the movie. But simply mentioning the fact that soldiers can lose their personal identities in war does not make the movie philosophical — Whedon should just stick to explosions and snarky one-liners.

Overall, however, the movie is a joy to watch. It never drags, and Marvel fans won't be disappointed. A couple television actors smoothly transition to the big screen, and other veteran actors show they haven't lost their touch. Although Whedon attempts to imply a deeper meaning, it isn't as blatant as recent tries to appeal to the masses with some contrived message that is supposed to make audiences think. It was actually refreshing to see an action movie just be an action movie.

★★★★★

The Avengers pleases audiences with slick action and pithy one-liners

By Maggie Liu
STAFF WRITER

When I found out that Marvel was making a movie called *The Avengers* where they dumped all their famous superheroes together, I figured it was just another franchise film. Marvel films are known for their explosions, ruggedly handsome actors, and romantic subplots. After watching so many of such films, I anticipated the typical formula. While *The Avengers* did follow that formula to some extent, it also showed Hollywood how real entertainment should be done.

Trying to explain the plot line to a friend afterwards, I realized that it sounded like a bad B-movie. You pool half a dozen big-name Marvel Comics characters into a team — crowdpleaser Iron Man (Robert Downey, Jr.), boyishly handsome Captain America (Chris Evans), Nordic musclem Thor (Christopher Hemsworth), the bookish Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) — oh, don't forget the obligatory femme fatale in a catsuit, Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson). Throw in a dash of villainous alien creatures. Put all of earth in danger of obliteration by said alien creatures and you have your movie in a nutshell.

For those anticipating significant depth in this Marvel movie, I'd recommend you instead head to Kendall Theater for some British indie films. Nevertheless, *Avengers* turned out to be a hit amongst many moviegoers. Many of my friends still praise it enthusiastically, gushing that it may be "their favorite movie of the year." Was it necessarily thought-provoking and profound like *Inception*? Not really. Was there some moving pathos that racked the viewers with tears? Not exactly, except perhaps pity at the alien things squelched by the Hulk.

The driving factor of *Avengers'* success has to lie in the quips and pithy one-liners. Aside from the slapstick comedy that ensues during some of the battle scenes, the dialogue between characters is full to the brim with whiplash humor. A quick snippet from a particularly humorous exchange:

Bruce Banner: "I don't think we should be focusing on Loki. That guy's brain is a bag

full of cats. You can smell crazy on him."

Thor: "Have a care how you speak! Loki is beyond reason, but he is of Asgard. And he is my brother"

Natasha Romanoff: "He killed eighty people in two days."

Thor: "He's adopted."

In retrospect, the humor shouldn't come as a surprise to the audience considering that the screenplay writer is Joss Whedon, renowned for his *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* series and other sensational, well-scripted shows such as *Firefly*.

The best part of *The Avengers* is probably having a hero everyone can relate or aspire to on some level. Watching the film with a theater full of MIT students resulted in cat-calls and applause every time Tony Stark came onstage. Furthermore, for those who have watched Marvel films before, it's a treat to see how their favorite characters would interact. I imagine it's a bit like Fantasy Football except with Marvel Comic superheroes.

Although I anticipated that most of the attendees would be fan boys, I found myself fairly pleased with the selection of eye candy in the male cast. For the ladies whom action is not usually a favorite genre, fear not! Evans and Hemsworth will keep your eyes glued to the screen and you will find yourself cackling at Downey Jr.'s charisma and smart-alecky remarks.

The Avengers proves to be a slick Blockbuster and truly deserving of the entertainment film label. With high energy and comedic moments, it delivers a thrilling two hours' worth of fun. It's definitely worth a \$10 ticket to the theater on a Friday night.

The Avengers

Directed by Joss Whedon

Starring Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, and Scarlett Johansson

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Mother, I'm hungry

Hungry Mother is a treat for your tastebuds

By Fabiola Michel
STAFF WRITER

Just a month before the end of the semester — and my life at MIT — I decided to go out and have a nice, stress-relieving dinner. On Tuesday we went to Hungry Mother, a tiny restaurant just in the corner of Portland and Bristol streets, in front of the Kendall Square Cinema. I discovered it by luck and since then I had always planned to visit it. What an amazing surprise!

That Tuesday, I made a reservation for two and smiled; I had a date for dinner and I was going to finally meet with the Hungry Mother. I put on my red lipstick and biked there. It was nice to discover that the restaurant is unpretentious, simple, and comfortable.

The menu had changed since I first saw it. Before, the dishes were clearly winter cuisine: duck, marrow, and pork chops. Now — even though the month of May is still surprisingly chilly — there are fishes and fruits de mer, along with pork and lamb. The chef uses regional and seasonal products to conceive interesting creations and changes the offer every month or so.

My boyfriend chose the grilled pompano. It was a whole fish with ortanique segments (the ortanique is an orange-tangerine hybrid) and a soy-lemon sauce; the flavors were a perfect balance between acidity, saltiness, and sweetness. On the side there were tempura fiddleheads: It was the first time we saw one of those curly veggies, but we loved their flavor with little reminders of asparagus and

baby spinach.

I had a slow-roasted curried leg of lamb with small red beans, mint leaves, and little pieces of peanut. On the top were cucumber strips with crème fraîche that brought a little freshness to the richer, yet very tender, lamb. It was comfort food at its best.

Our table neighbor could not stop talking about the high quality of his entire dinner; for his third course he had ordered catfish fillet with pecan meuniere sauce served with rice, sea island red peas, and lemon brown butter.

Choosing a dessert proved to be difficult even though the menu only gave us three choices. We debated between a bacon upside-down cake and butterscotch pot de crème. But when and where we would we ever have the chance to eat a bacon cake

Hungry Mother

Kendall Square, Cambridge

Dinner: Tuesday–Sunday
5–10:30 pm

again? Our choice did not disappoint. The simple, fluffy cake, topped with chunks of delicious caramelized bacon and served with mandarin segments and vanilla whipped cream, was pure heaven.

Our whole experience at Hungry Mother was outstanding. Even though it is pricey, it is completely worth it. I cannot wait to bring my family there and enjoy a new menu.

Culture versus politics

Author Marjane Satrapi discusses life, and *Persepolis*

By Yü Linlin Huang
STAFF WRITER

I didn't really know what to expect when I went to the Museum of Fine Arts to hear a talk by Marjane Satrapi. After all, I had only heard of her from a discussion in my French IV class that same week when we watched her movie *Persepolis*.

She began her talk with a certain F-word, probably to loosen the crowd, and that's when I realized this was not going to be the traditional, boring speech that I had expected. My friend Arturo S. Campos, who also went to meet Satrapi commented, "I really didn't expect her to be so funny and engaging"

She was in fact very funny and also insightful in her understanding of cultural tidbits. This is in part because she says exactly what she thinks, and she doesn't try to buffer it into something more politically correct. In fact, she avoids politics altogether, saying that

it is not in her realm of work as a writer.

Primarily, she spoke about her debut masterpiece *Persepolis*, which is about her own experiences growing up in Tehran. Satrapi grew up amidst communist and socialist movements in Iran prior to the Iranian Revolution. As a child, she witnessed how the oppression brought on political unrest. Her autobiographical graphic novel *Persepolis* refers to the great ancient capital of the Persian Empire in name only; its content depicts the grim life of children growing up in a post-utopian power struggle between political forces.

To me, *Persepolis* is more of a memoir than an autobiography. Not only does she tell her story in comic form, but her informal choice of language and use of hyperbole also allow the reader to make a more intimate connection to her story. The English version of *Persepolis* came in two installments: The first describes her childhood in Tehran, and

the second describes her life in Vienna as a teenager. Personally, I love the minimalist black and white theme of the book. The art form is simple yet provocative in the story it tells. During her talk, Satrapi said that it took years for someone to finally convince her to make a movie out of her book: "When you make a movie out of a book, the movie always turns out bad," she explained. However, when her book was finally made into a movie, she was the director. Seeing *Persepolis* the movie is like watching the comic characters come to life. The movie, like the book, is minimalist and is almost entirely in black and white.

It may be surprising that as the author of such a book as *Persepolis*, which takes its roots in politics, Satrapi refuses to comment when a journalist asks her about her views on the current political atmosphere of Iran. As a writer, she believes it is not her job to be a political commentator. On the other hand, it

Persepolis

Marjane Satrapi

is her objective to create cultural understanding between the Eastern and the Western worlds. She commented that “many people in the west ... when you say you are from Iran, they view you as an animal.” This is why, in *Persepolis*, she denied her nationality when she was studying in Vienna. With *Persepolis*, she hopes to generate tolerance between people of all nationalities, and show that her story is universal.

In addition to *Persepolis*, Satrapi has authored several other graphic novels. Some of her books are geared towards children, like *Les Monstres N'aiment Pas la Lune*. Another book, *Poulet aux Prunes*, was released to theaters in 2011.

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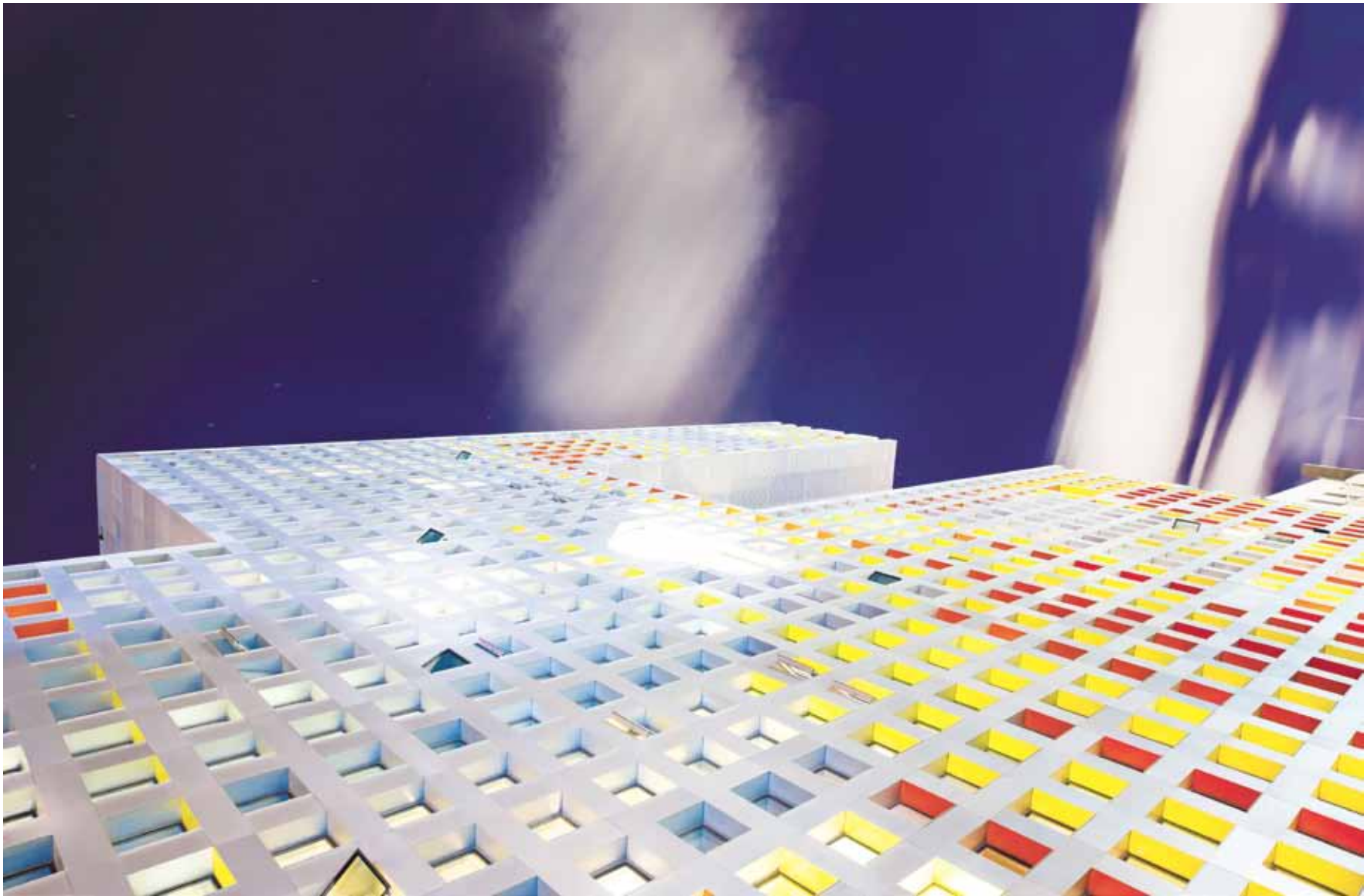
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Institute Double Take



By Manohar Srikanth
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The idea behind the shot was to get the wide angle perspective of the Simmons Hall, with trail of clouds in the background. The vertical facade, because of the camera position and perspective, gives the illusion of a horizontal surface. To get the type of cloud trails displayed here, the sky needs a variety of scattered moving clouds. The camera needs to be set for a long exposure, typically minutes, depending on the desired length of trails and current speed of clouds.

For this photo, the camera was put on remote bulb mode to expose

for 95 seconds. The aperture was set to f/9 so that the depth of field is wide and also to reduce the amount of light coming into the camera over the long exposure. The focus was set to hyper-focal length corresponding to f/9, to obtained reasonable overall sharpness. Because the facades are not uniformly illuminated, a hand held flash gun was fired to fill light in darker areas. A sturdy tripod was used to avoid blurring due to wind.

The editing steps involved correcting for exposure by editing the curves. The saturation was boosted to bring out the details in the colored windows. The image was edited in Photoshop to remove branches of the trees on the top side of the image.

Aperture:
f/9.0
Exposure Time:
95.0 sec.
Sensitivity:
ISO 200
Effective Focal Length:
21 mm

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TAMI FORRESTER—THE TECH

Varun K. Ganesan '14 and Aditya S. Kalluri '13 open the Brohmance a capella concert, put on by the Ohms, on Saturday night.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

Rebecca A. Vasquez '12 demonstrates the Narrow Rickshaw project at the D-Lab showcase at the MIT Museum on Saturday.

Textbooks cramping your style?

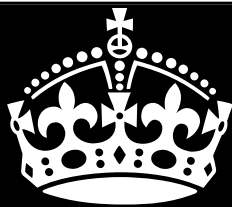


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KEEP
CALM
AND
JOIN
THE
TECH

Review of CoolChip
and CEP concluded
CEP '12 rules revised accordingly

CoolChip, from Page 1

sequently automatically entered in the MIT \$100K Business Plan Contest.

In August, questions regarding the startup's integrity on a matter of intellectual property were raised by an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. It claimed that CoolChip's prizewinning cooling technology was actually Sandia's device, designed by researcher Jeffrey Koplow, and that CoolChip had misrepresented the technology as their own without proper citation. CoolChip and Sandia have since then resolved the attribution issue — Sandia has "informed [CoolChip] how to easily reference Sandia work in the future without implying our endorsement for their work," Sandia spokesperson Michael Janes wrote in an email to *The Tech* in September.

Finding that CoolChip did properly reference the inventor of the technology throughout the written and oral components of the CEP, Grimson concluded that CoolChip did not violate the CEP's rules. However, the review also said that, outside the scope of the CEP itself, CoolChip should have cited the source of materials, which they neglected to do in some public presentations.

Addressing the broader situa-

tion, Grimson's report stated that the CEP rules needed to be clearer, and MIT "needs to do a better job ensuring that entrants to ... student-run competitions understand ethical issues concerning intellectual property."

According to Grimson, the 2012 Clean Energy Prize rules were already revised to include a "much more precise definition of intellectual property rights," as well as to resolve some internal inconsistencies.

On how to address a possible disconnect between the written rules governing student-run competitions and how those rules are actually implemented, Grimson said that these events are "learning experiences," so administrators would rather not strictly regulate every aspect of every group. Instead, he is encouraging faculty supervisors to emphasize the importance of these ethical issues and has discussed their implications with the leaders of some of the larger events on campus to increase visibility.

In addition to working with the organizers of the CEP, Grimson has also discussed entrants' understanding of intellectual property rights with the 100K directors, and he believes that they have "reacted to those concerns and issues as well."

"We have so many student groups and student-run competitions, and we tend to offer a lot of freedom to those groups," said Grimson, "but outreach to the larger events, such as the 100K, will raise visibility of the issues."

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Warnings said to be unheeded by JPMorgan Chase

Risk controls not sufficiently strengthened, bets placed not fully understood, some claim

By Jessica Silver-Greenberg and Nelson D. Schwartz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the years leading up to JPMorgan Chase’s \$2 billion trading loss, risk managers and some senior investment bankers raised concerns that the bank was making increasingly large investments involving complex trades that were hard to understand. But even as the size of the bets climbed steadily, these former employees say, their concerns about the dangers were ignored or dismissed.

An increased appetite for such trades had the approval of the upper echelons of the bank, including Jamie Dimon, the chief executive, current and former employees said.

Initially, this led to sharply higher investing profits, but they said it also contributed to the bank’s lowering its guard.

“There was a lopsided situation, between really risky positions and relatively weaker risk managers,”

said a former trader with the chief investment office, the JPMorgan unit that suffered the recent loss. The trader and other former employees spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the nature of the investigations into the trading losses.

Instead, the bank maintains that the losses were largely the fault of the chief investment office. Overall tolerance for risky trading did not increase, current executives said, just the scale of the office’s activities because of the bank’s acquisition of Washington Mutual in 2008 and its more risky credit portfolio.

Despite Dimon’s recent apologies about the losses, which will most likely be repeated Tuesday as JPMorgan shareholders gather for the company’s annual meeting in Tampa, Fla., regulators will scrutinize risk management at the chief investment office.

Top investment bank executives raised concerns about the growing size and complexity of the bets held by the bank’s chief investment office

as early as 2007, according to interviews with half a dozen current and former bank officials. Within the investment office, led by Ina Drew, who resigned Monday, the bets were directed by the head of the Europe trading desk in London, Achilles Macris.

Macris, who is also expected to resign, failed to heed warnings as early as 2009 from the unit’s own internal risk officer, said current and former members of the chief investment office. Macris and Drew were not available for comment.

Under Dimon’s stewardship, JPMorgan Chase has long had a reputation for its strong risk-management abilities — indeed, it came through the 2008 financial crisis largely unscathed, unlike many big banks. For their part, senior bank officials Monday disputed the assertions that the company weakened risk management in recent years while seeking higher trading profits.

Risk managers were largely sidelined by Macris, who had wide lati-

tude and also had Drew’s support, with only modest interference from her. At one point, after concerns were raised about positions assembled by Bruno Iksil, now known as the London Whale, Macris brought in a risk officer with whom he had worked closely in the past.

Risk officers are empowered to halt trades deemed too dangerous, so the coziness of the arrangement generated talk in New York as well, according to the former trader within the chief investment office.

Several bankers said that risk controls were not sufficiently strengthened by Doug Braunstein, who took over as chief financial officer in 2010, another reason the bolder trades continued.

The bank disputes that Braunstein tolerated additional risk in any way, said Joe Evangelisti, a spokesman for the bank.

David Olson, who headed up credit trading for the chief investment office until December, said that in his trading “the management

was very involved and the risk controls were very strong.”

Part of the breakdown in supervision, current executives said, was a fundamental disconnect between the chief investment office in London and the rest of the bank. Even within the chief investment office there were heightening concerns that the bets being made in London were incredibly complex and not fully understood by management in New York.

Despite these concerns, the scope of the chief investment’s offices trades widened sharply following the acquisition of Washington Mutual at the height of the financial crisis in 2008.

Not only did the bank bring with it hundreds of billions more in assets, it also owned riskier securities that needed to be hedged against. As a result, the business’s investment securities portfolio rapidly grew, more than quadrupling to \$356 billion in 2011, from \$76.5 billion in 2007, company filing show.

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Solution to Sudoku
from page 9

6	1	2	7	8	3	5	4	9
4	9	8	2	1	5	7	3	6
7	3	5	9	4	6	1	8	2
8	4	7	1	5	2	9	6	3
3	5	9	8	6	4	2	1	7
2	6	1	3	7	9	8	5	4
5	7	4	6	2	1	3	9	8
9	8	6	5	3	7	4	2	1
1	2	3	4	9	8	6	7	5

Solution to Crossword
from page 8

WESSEX	SKELETAL
EXETER	PEROXIDE
SCLERA	ORESTEIA
TIFF	YARN
TEAR	CREEPSOUT
WAX	NOSTALGIC
OBI	ANON
GLOBAL	ELLISON
ECOTAGE	SEESTO
TAUT	DRE
PEZDISPENSER	
ACEYDEUCY	DOPE
UHF	SKAT
FOAL	TAILGATE
ITURBI	ONLOOKER
PESTLE	STEPPADS
SASSED	

Solution to Techdoku
from page 9

1	3	2	6	5	4
4	6	5	3	2	1
2	4	3	1	6	5
3	5	4	2	1	6
5	1	6	4	3	2
6	2	1	5	4	3

SMBC, from Page 9

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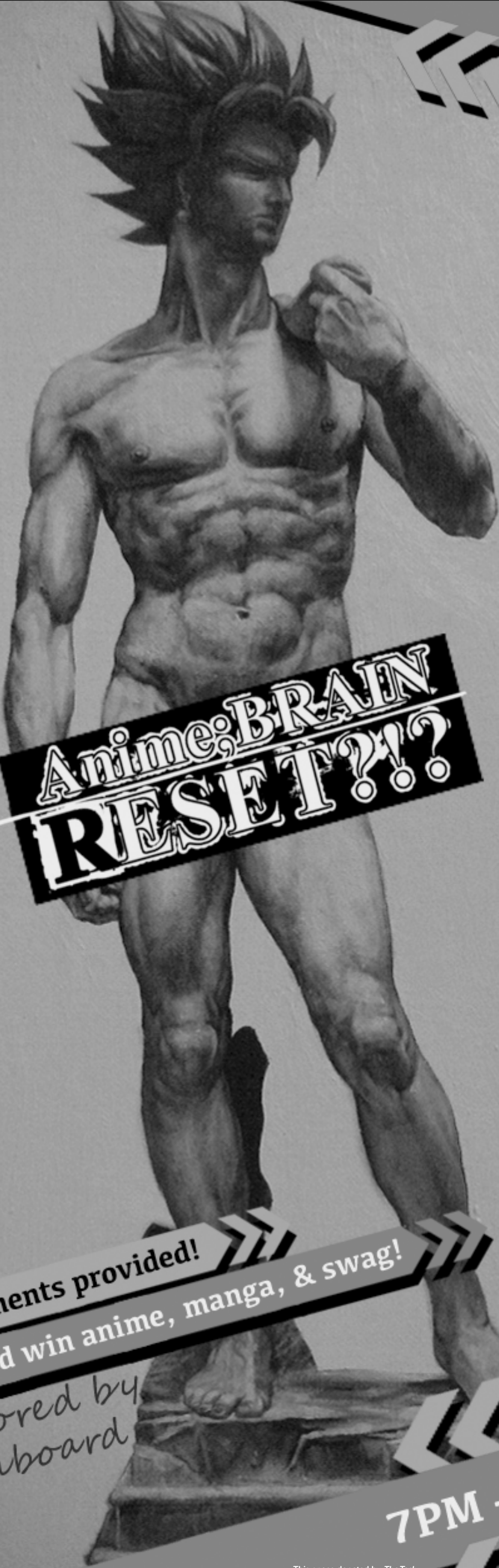
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No charges for driver

More details of the accident released

Kyaw, from Page 1

Massachusetts law requires bicycles to have a front light at night.

Kyaw's 21-speed bicycle appeared to be set at the gear combination that was as hard to pedal in as possible, indicating travel "at a fairly fast pace," police report #5 said. On the other hand, if Kyaw was intending to turn left and was approaching a red light, it is also possible he was slowing down, or had even come to a stop.

Truck driver's narrative

According to Cambridge Police Report #1, the truck driver "stated that he was travelling westbound on Mass. Ave. when he attempted to take a right turn onto Vassar St. [The driver] said that the light was green and his right directional light was on. Moments later, [he] said he felt the impact of something hitting his truck. He stopped and got out of his truck

to investigate and observed that he had been in a collision with a bicycle."

According to the reconstruction report, MIT provided video that showed the truck did activate its right directional signal. (Presumably this video came from the exterior video cameras mounted on Building 42, the Central Utilities Plant at 59 Vassar Street.)

Several phone calls to the driver's home number yesterday afternoon were not returned.

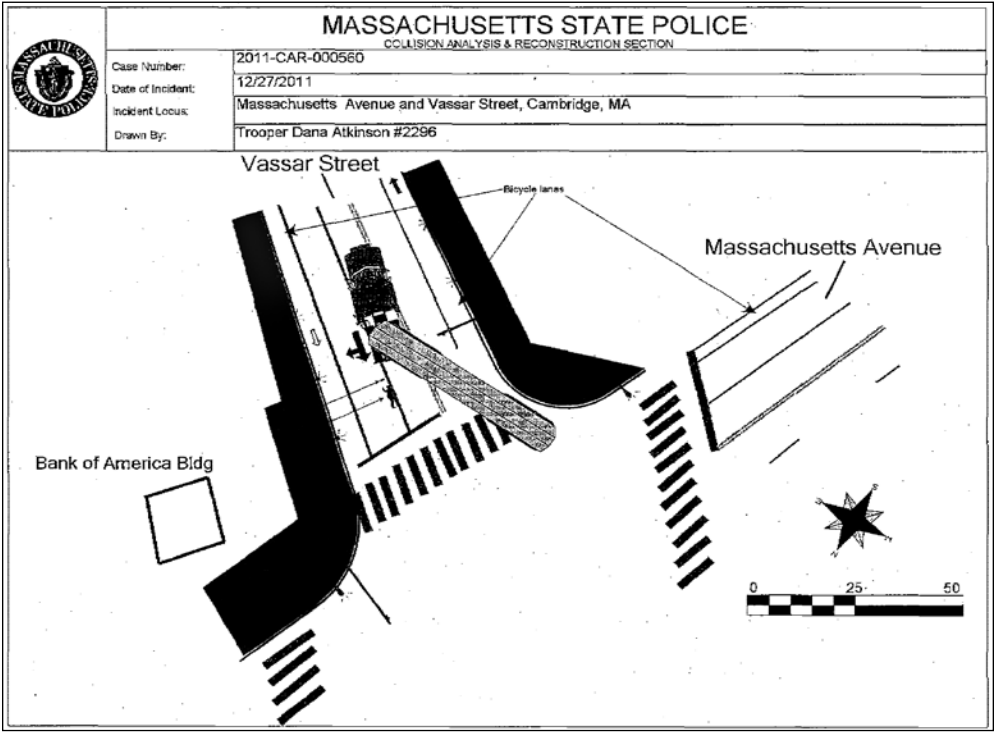
A person answering the phone at J.P. Noonan Transportation Inc., the owner of the truck, referred inquiries to a dispatcher identifying himself only as "Larry." Larry stated he was not aware that the investigation had completed.

Larry Noonan is listed as the secretary and director of the company, and also as the company's sales manager. Larry Noonan and terminal manager Paul Noonan did not respond to email inquiries sent yesterday afternoon.



SOURCE: WHDH CHANNEL 7

Kyaw's bike crushed beneath the tanker truck.



SOURCE: MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

Above: A wide angle shot of Kyaw's bike and the tanker truck at the scene of the accident. Below: The State Police's collision analysis and reconstruction drawing of the accident.

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MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMAKER—THE TECH
A “white cone” antenna, top center, will support enhanced cell phone reception inside MIT buildings.

IS&T deploying cell antennas

Signal amplifiers to be installed in three phrases

By John A. Hawkinson
STAFF REPORTER

Information Services and Technology is deploying antennas and amplifiers in buildings across campus to improve cellular reception.

IS&T is targeting deployment in over 100 buildings on campus in three phases, according to Christine C. Fitzgerald, a spokeswoman for IS&T, over the course of several email messages.

IS&T refused to provide a list of buildings where deployment was complete to *The Tech*. According to Fitzgerald, the first phase of 50 buildings was “just about done” in late March, and the second phase of 50 buildings would be next. The project is targeted to finish by December 2013, with the third phase covering the “remainder of buildings” after the first 100.

The Tech has observed these antennas, which look like white cones, in buildings 56, 38, 54, as well as Albany Garage, building N4. Deployment was first noticed in October.

IS&T said the project is being done in partnership with AT&T,

though the system installed is “carrier independent.”

The deployed equipment appears to be active on 700 MHz (AT&T and Verizon) and 2100 MHz (AT&T and T-Mobile), according to labeling on some of the equipment. (A third set of unlabeled equipment suggests a third frequency band is supported as well.)

IS&T declined to discuss the cost structure of the project, and would not say whether MIT was paying AT&T, or vice versa.

Fitzgerald said that MIT’s agreement with AT&T “primarily” precluded disclosure of “details of cost and who is paying for what,” but would not explain why MIT had negotiated a non-disclosure with AT&T in this case. She also declined to define the payment flow in broad strokes, such as explaining who was paying for equipment and who was paying for installation services.

IS&T did say that “each carrier has to work and come to an agreement with us and AT&T,” referring primarily to Sprint and Verizon. Those carriers “will need to decide if they need to improve their coverage for the MIT buildings and they will have to fund the work and install, setup, test, and tune the system as well.”

IS&T said that the antennas were placed based on AT&T’s engineering models of coverage. IS&T declined to provide any data on the planned coverage patterns, or to discuss whether there had been a density study or other assessment of current operating conditions throughout campus.

IS&T said last week that MIT had weeks ago issued a statement to the *Boston Globe*: “Information Services & Technology at MIT is always interested in ways to improve connectivity, and IS&T has been working with AT&T as part of an ongoing project to enhance ‘in building’ cell communications around campus.”

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Baker, from Page 1

Hoffman later confirmed was a respiratory hazard. “When we got to the lobby, it looked like it was full of white smoke,” said third-floor resident Elizabeth M. Albany ’13, who at first thought the smoke was from a fire. “My nose and throat started burning from the discharge that was in the air,” Albany said, though she went through “quickly enough” that there were no lasting effects.

Colleen K. Gabel ’15, who also lives on the first floor Matthews, said that the smoke was “powdery” in the air, and that many of her neighbors also thought it was from an fire.

On Sunday night, the Baker House minutes said that there were no leads on the ‘evil fire extinguisher man.’

Students waited for around 20 minutes to get back inside, said Gabel, until the housemasters explained the situation to the cold, sleepy crowd, saying that they would not be allowed back in for “a while.” After being notified that it was not known when the clean-up crew would arrive, the students “took over the Student Center with blankets and pillows,” said Albany, adding that the housemasters did not suggest any location to go to.

The house team kept the residents updated with email throughout the morning. A 6 a.m. message from Hoffman said that they were waiting for a professional clean-up crew, but did not know how long it would take them to “arrive or render the building safe.” The incident was one of “pure vandalism,” Hoffman said, and mentioned that the discharge was “still creating a respiratory hazard.”

Despite the health hazard, the house team let students in for five minutes each to get belongings from their rooms, according to Plasmeier. Albany said that the residents on the track & field and crew teams had competitions that day, and needed to get belongings from their rooms. According to Albany, the process was overseen by the housemasters and Facilities workers, who made sure that residents signed in and out on their way to their room,

At 8 a.m., around when the clean-up crew arrived, Hoffman reported that there was still no update on how long the clean-up would take. There was a light breakfast in McCormick for Baker residents, where they could wait until they could safely return to Baker.

At 9:45 a.m., the dorm was finally ready for students to return after the halls had been vacuumed by an environmental cleanup service, said an email from Hoffman. In a later email, Hoffman encouraged students to “get medical attention” if they experienced any “unusual feelings in their lungs, throat, or nose.”

On Sunday night, the Baker House minutes said that there were no leads on the “evil fire extinguisher man,” but that anyone with information should contact Plasmeier or the housemasters. Plasmeier also said on Monday that he was not aware of any students with respiratory issues as a result of the incident, and that Baker was not taking any measures to more heavily enforce the pulling of fire extinguishers, citing existing punishment at the Institute and governmental levels.

"Students are generally upset with what happened and angry with the person who did it," added Plasmeier.

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Men's track takes sixth at New England Championship

Engineers garnered 39 points at competition and prepare for next meet at RPI for ECAC

By Greg McKeever

DAPER STAFF

MIT served as the host of the All-New England Championship over the weekend, welcoming teams from across the region in Divisions I, II, and III to the Steinbrenner Stadium. The Engineers had a number of impressive performances during the meet and finished sixth as a team, the highest finish among Division III squads. Tech had 39 points, bolstered by second-place showings in three events.

Sophomore Tyler S. Singer-Clark had a personal-best time of 21.62 seconds in the 200-meter to finish second. Singer-Clark was also part of the fifth-place 4x400-meter relay that finished in 3:16.08. Singer-Clark was joined by juniors Daniel J. Ronde and Patrick K. Marx and freshman Samuel G. Parker.

Benjamin A. Mattocks '12 also had a runner-up performance in the 1500-meter

with a time of 3:54.56. Justin L. Bullock '14 took seventh in the event in 3:55.55.

Nathan E. Peterson '13 finished second in the pole vault, as one of two vaulters to clear 16-4.75 feet, missing out on first place on attempts.

Chinedum K. Umachi '12 was fourth in the hammer throw at 184-02 feet. Senior Stephen Serene had a fifth-place finish in the steeplechase with a solid time of 9:17.33.

Also in action this weekend, was senior Daniel E. Harper, who traveled to the IC4A championship at Princeton University. Harper was looking to lower his time in the 10,000-meter in the hopes of qualifying for the upcoming NCAA Division III championship. Harper did just that, running a personal best 30:07.44, good for second place and 13th on the NCAA qualifying list with one week to go before the field is announced.

The MIT Women's Track and Field team, ranked No. 15 in the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coach-

es Association poll, took on teams from across Divisions I, II, and III at the NEI-CAAA championship at the Steinbrenner Stadium over the weekend. The Engineers received some impressive individual showings to finish 14th overall and fourth among Division III squads.

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Senior Portia M. Jones had a busy weekend, qualifying for the finals in three events, the 100-meter hurdles, and the 200 and 400 meters. Jones ran a season-best 14.28 seconds in the 100-hurdles to take third. Her qualifying time in the 400 was the third fastest but the final was sched-

uled in between the hurdles and the 200, so the senior paced herself to an eighth-place finish. She then came back to earn fifth in the 200-meter final with a time of 24.51 seconds, a season-best that ranks seventh on the national qualifying list.

Senior Martha M. Gross did not make the finals in the 200 but did post her fastest time of the year at 25.54.

Senior Jamie L. Simmons ran extremely well in the 400-meter hurdles, nearly breaking the one-minute mark. Simmons finished in 1:00.84 in the finals to earn fourth place.

Freshman Michelle O. Johnson set a new MIT freshman record in the triple jump, placing seventh with a leap of 37-7.75 feet. Junior Lauren B. Kuntz gave Tech a solid effort in the pole vault, clearing 12-1.50 feet to earn second place.

The Engineers will travel to RPI for the ECAC championship next weekend, the final competition of the year before the NCAA Division III championship in two weeks.

GUEST COLUMN

The art of advocacy at MIT

Where do students fit in?

By Adwoa Boakye

On May 1, MIT Corporation Member Barun Singh ENG '06 called for MIT students to advocate for themselves. This is difficult with MIT's current structure of advocacy, which lacks proper forums to share problems and ideas. Students advocate through the student groups they are a part of, and student groups are forced to make advocacy entertainment. Events such as Alpha Chi Omega's Lipsync for raising domestic violence awareness and the Chorallaries' Bad Taste, which makes fun of scandalous occurrences on campus, are fun but students do not leave the show with a heightened sense of awareness — they are often focused on the event itself, and not the issue at hand. I would like to explain why advocacy currently happens as it does and make suggestions for how to get students more involved in politics.

This past semester I explored the needs of MIT students engaged in service, advocacy, and political discussion through Hope in Action (HIA), a student group dedicated to sup-

porting service, social justice, and advocacy on our campus. We were able to add questions to the 2011 All-Undergraduate Survey by the Office of the Provost, and found that only 10 percent of MIT Undergraduates plan on doing something involving politics during their time here. However, more than 50 percent of our campus is dissatisfied with the administration's response to their concerns.

We held service leader dinners sponsored by the Public Service Center and met with groups like MITOccupy, The Forum, and TGBSM to find out the current state of student involvement. We also held a workshop exploring how student groups can improve the reach of political discussion on campus. From all these resources, we have made the following observations on why students aren't involved in activism.

1. We like to do things for ourselves. An administrative call to attend a State of the Institute Address or to participate in a Diversity Summit does not draw a rousing crowd like a student-organized event such as Bad Taste.

2. MIT students are skeptical of how

much political advocacy and discussion can do. Because of this, they are hesitant to attend political events if they think it will be a time sink. During MITOccupy's kick-off event, WakeUp MIT, a couple of freshmen introduced themselves by saying "You have to prove that this is important." I have experienced the same skepticism on multiple occasions.

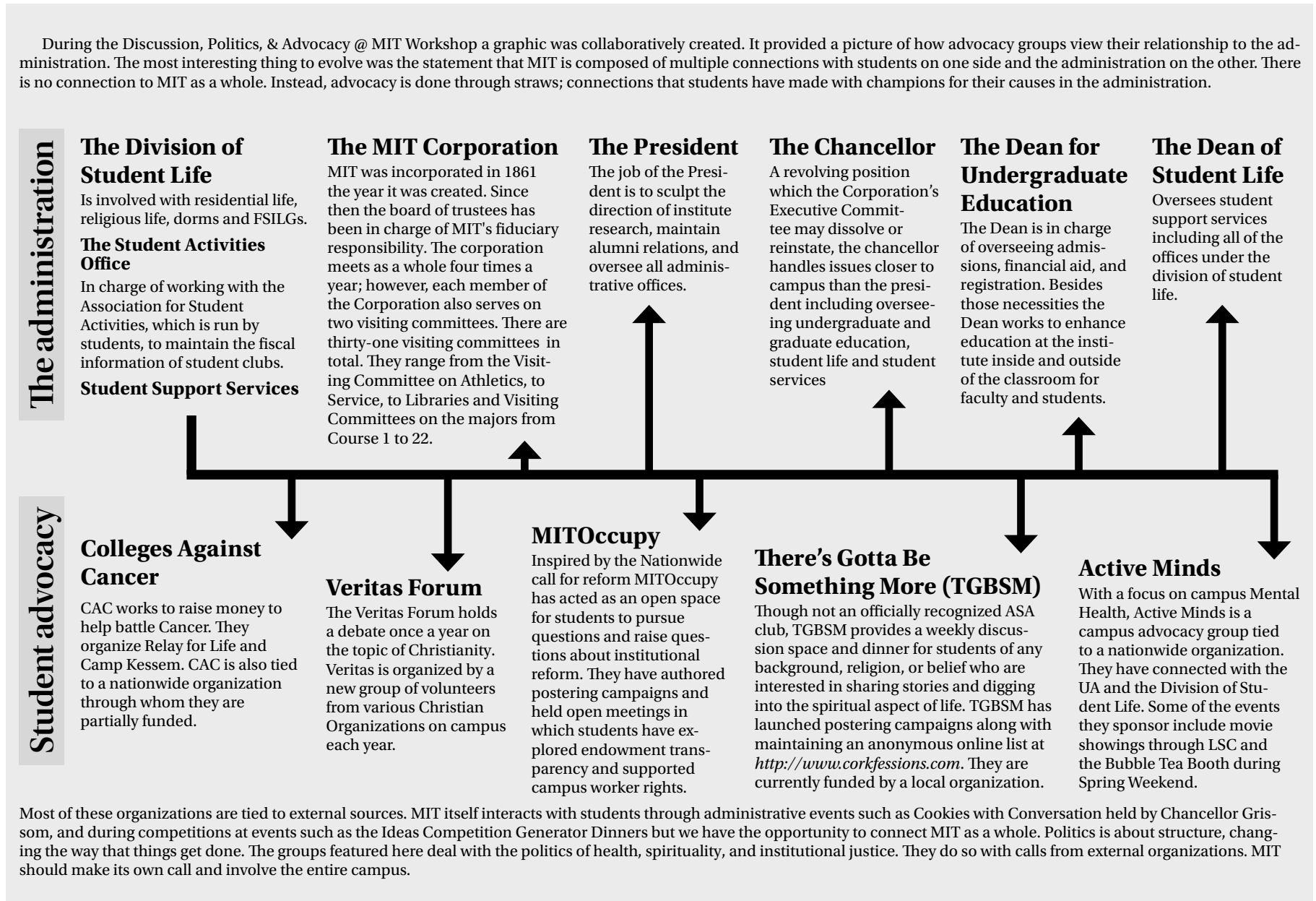
As a result, we need to engineer discussions, increase transparency, and connect our community in the best way possible. After delving into what makes students tick I suggest working towards two things:

1. Make interactions more transparent by developing online platforms that are relevant, easy, and efficient. Many students voice their opinions and problems on <http://isawyou.mit.edu/>. MIT Mental Health has taken note of this and has used the site to gauge the state of MIT's mental health. This is a great move which other organization should follow. The UA has tried to move their interactions online, but it doesn't have a low barrier to entry. A better way for the UA to

connect with students online would be to increase transparency by creating a live feed of what decisions the administration is making and allow students to comment.

2. Allow the entire campus to get together and talk. The administration should sponsor a day of conversation on political and advocacy issues. There are tons of ways that we can get students interested in having conversations. Let the faculty and students in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Comparative Media Studies, Political Science, Women and Gender Studies build a case for why we should care and build forums where students can candidly express what they think. That will give the administration the answers they are looking for and furthermore increase the feeling of community.

If you support these suggestions or would like to add your own you can write into the *Tech's* online comment feed, apply to an Institute Committee through the UA, or add comments on HIA's website at http://bit.ly/HIA_MIT.



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